

Appl. No. : **10/618,464**
Filed : **July 11, 2003**

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has objected to Claims 1-31 for lacking consistency in language. Claims 1, 9, 10, 18, and 26 have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion. No new matter has been added. The amendments are merely for clarification or to conform the claims to U.S. practice, and thus do not narrow the scope of protection. Reconsideration and allowance of all Claims 1-31 in light of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Please also find enclosed herein a certified copy of European patent application No. 02117134.4, filed July 12, 2002, to which this application claims priority. Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. In light of these amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 3/16/06

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